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Tuesday, January 19, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

'Awkward Sex' is coming to town. 22

NO ONE CAN HURT OLIVIA MUNN

The 'Ride Along 2' star won't let mean words get to her. 20

Suspect in homeless shelter shooting surrenders to cops. 5

BACK TO WORK

It's time for the Eagles to start focusing on 2016 — and for new coach Doug Pederson to better utilize DeMarco Murray. 27-28

GETTY IMAGES

OBAMA HAILS DIPLOMACY

1 Speaking after released Americans had left Iran, President Barack Obama said Iran now would not "get its hands on a nuclear bomb" and the planet would be more secure. "This is a good day because once again we are seeing what's possible through strong American diplomacy," he said at the White House. REUTERS

AFGHAN DESERTIONS

2 Afghan Lieutenant Amanullah said he was ready to fight to the death to stop the Taliban from making gains across the south of the country, where insurgents have already overrun a series of districts in their traditional heartland. In November, 15 months after joining up, he deserted, one of thousands of tired and frustrated soldiers who have shed their uniforms, seriously blunting the Afghan army's power to repel a growing militant threat. REUTERS

MATCH-FIXING REPORTS

3 World tennis was rocked by allegations that the game's authorities have failed to deal with match-fixing. Tennis authorities rejected reports by the BBC and BuzzFeed News, which said 16 players who have been ranked in the top 50 had been flagged to the Tennis Integrity Unit over suspicions they had thrown matches. REUTERS

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

MLK SERVICE DAY

7 Mayor Jim Kenney toured the Martin Luther King Jr. High School on Monday during the school's annual MLK Jr. Service Day, speaking to JROTC member and senior Marquise Dillard, among others, in North Philadelphia.

MAIN PHOTO BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

LEGENDARY TAVERN FIRE

4 A legendary and popular South Jersey tavern was the scene of a Monday morning fire. The three-alarm fire at The Hillcrest Tavern and Coach Room in Bridgeton, New Jersey, which started around 4:45 a.m. has reportedly caused no injuries, ABC reported. Route 49 was shut down in both directions around Fayette Street. The oldest portion of the tavern was built in 1782. JASON NUCKOLLS

RINGS TO ID SKELETON

5 State police released images of jewelry found on a skeleton in a state park earlier this month in an attempt to help identify the body. The three rings were discovered along with the skeletal remains. Police said the body was found in Ridley Creek State Park, and is believed to be that of a woman in her late teens to early 20s. "The rings are unique," state police said in a prepared statement on Monday. "One ring is a Claddagh ring. The second ring has an engraving on it. The third ring has a green stone." REUTERS

WHATSAPP DROPS COST

6 WhatsApp is dropping its token $1 a year subscription fee for consumers as it experiments with making businesses pay to send notifications to consumers, Chief Executive Jan Koum said Monday. The company, which was acquired by social media giant Facebook in 2014, now counts nearly 1 billion users. REUTERS

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Airport workers rally for fair wages

Cabin cleaners, baggage handlers and wheelchair attendants march for higher wages, rights to unionize, with mayor's blessing.

JENNY DEHUFF
@MetroNewYork
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On a day when thousands of subcontracted airport workers across the country disrupted airport operations in the name of fair living wages, Mayor Jim Kenney managed to keep the peace at PHL by agreeing to back them up in their endeavor.

About 200 airport service workers and fellow supporters at Philadelphia International Airport on Monday marched in near-arctic temperatures from Terminal F to Terminal B in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s march on Washington.

"Unlike many of their counterparts across the country, Philadelphia's subcontracted airport workers did not engage in civil disobedience at PHL today," Kenney said in a statement.

"They know we are committed to resolving the subcontracting crisis at the airport and helping them work with dignity. In the coming weeks, I will be bringing together airport stakeholders to reach an agreement that benefits these workers and helps them ensure that our airport is a world-class facility."

Gabe Morgan, vice president of 32BJ SEIU and the rally's emcee, said that the cabin cleaners, wheelchair attendants and baggage handlers who work at the airport for wages as low as $12 are being treated unfairly by third-party companies who hire them to do the work.

"All across this country today, thousands of contracted airport workers from Boston to New York to New Jersey to Philadelphia to Washington D.C. to Chicago to Portland and beyond are standing together and fighting for justice. Here at this airport, 2,000 workers working for companies like Prime Flight, who have had their foot on the necks of workers, who have kept these workers in poverty as they've worked here for years, these workers have gathered here together and they've been winning," he said.

> *"I'm not going to be fighting for appropriations for this airport unless they're going to be paying people a decent wage."*
>
> Fattah

Hundreds of Philadelphia International Airport workers and local politicians protested on Monday. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Onetha McKnight has worked at Philadelphia International Airport for nine years as a wheelchair attendant.

"In 2014 and 2015 we fought and won a minimum wage increase to $12 an hour," she said.

"Unfortunately, some workers at this airport received that $12 an hour, but as a wheelchair attendant, I have not, but I still continue to fight."

Congressman Chaka Fattah stood with the airport workers and vowed in Harrisburg to buck any appropriations for the airport unless it paid its workers more.

"These are public facilities. This airport is owned by the taxpayers of Philadelphia," he said. "As your congressman, I can tell you this: I'm not going to be fighting for appropriations for this airport unless they're going to be paying people a decent wage."

Diane Gerace, an airport spokeswoman, said there were no impacts to airport operations during Monday's rally.

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Shelter shooter turns himself in

Police said Monday that John Brock, 32, was steamed over being denied entry to the shelter.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The Station House homeless shelter on North Broad Street was the site of a fatal shooting Sunday morning. To the right is Brock, the suspect. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

He tried to enter a homeless shelter operated by former Mayor Wilson Goode while highly intoxicated and after curfew hours. Two employees at the shelter denied him entry.

John Brock, 32, who turned himself into police custody on Monday afternoon, allegedly responded by going to get a gun, finding those same two employees and opening fire, detectives said.

Station House Men's Shelter employee Edward Barksdale, 43, died from being shot five times. Lamond Barham, 26, an employee at the shelter, was shot once and wounded.

> *"He enters, turns and attempts to execute both victims."*
> Clark

"Two employees denied him access and police escort him from the premises," said Homicide Unit Capt. James Clark. "Hours later, suspect returns with a gun, walks into the facility, firing multiple times."

Police issued a warrant for Brock's arrest Monday and he surrendered less than four hours later.

Clark said the incident stemmed from a dispute early Saturday morning when Brock, who had resided in the shelter for 2½ half months, was denied entry to the shelter due to being drunk and missing curfew.

Police brought Brock to a hospital for a mental health evaluation on Saturday around 1 a.m., Clark said, but he was able to sign himself out on Saturday evening.

He returned at 3:15 a.m. Sunday to the shelter, argued with the two employees about retrieving his belongings and was denied entry.

Around 6:13 a.m., Brock returned with a gun Clark described as a small-caliber semi-automatic with plans to shoot those two employees.

"When he returned several hours later he actually asked someone else, 'Are those two employees working?'" Clark said.

Barksdale and Barham were at a station right inside the front door when Brock returned.

"He enters, turns and attempts to execute both victims," Clark said. Barksdale was shot while seated, while Barham fled and was shot trying to get away down the hallway.

Brock has 10 prior arrests, Clark said, and will face murder and attempted murder charges for the shooting.

Court records show Brock was scheduled for trial on Nov. 21 on aggravated assault and attempted murder charges.

He has previously served jail time on drug, assault and DUI charges and has a last known address on the 500 block of S. 62nd Street, but is currently homeless.

He had a record of past drunk and disorderly behavior at the shelter, Clark said.

"He was a problem resident there. He was drunk a lot of the time and got into fights with some of the other people that stayed there, as well as the staff," Clark said.

Brock is believed to have fled after the shooting on the railroad tracks directly behind the shelter, which are used by SEPTA Regional Rail trains.

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BRIEFS

Wounded Philly cop still hospitalized

Having already gone through multiple surgeries, a wounded Philly cop needs even more operations after being shot during an ambush in West Philly.

Officer Jesse Hartnett, 33, sustained three gunshots to the arm when he was attacked by Edward Archer, who claimed he was inspired by ISIS, on Jan. 7 at 60th and Pine streets.

Hartnett is doing well, but will remain hospitalized awaiting further surgery, NBC reported.

He is being treated at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, where another officer was attacked by a man trying to steal his gun just two days after the shooting.

Archer fired 13 shots while running up at Hartnett's car shortly before midnight Jan. 7. The car was passing through the intersection of 60th and Pine streets, shattering Hartnett's elbow, damaging an artery and a nerve center.

Hartnett PROVIDED

Despite his wounds, Hartnett was able to get out of his car and shoot Archer in the buttocks while giving chase.

Archer's preliminary hearing on attempted murder charges is scheduled for Jan. 25.

A GoFundMe page to support Hartnett and his family has collected more than $32,000 in donations as of Jan. 18.

SAM NEWHOUSE

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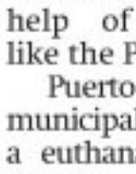
Ana and Elsa PROVIDED

Puerto Rican pups fly to Philly for care

The PSPCA will treat seven dogs from the island, where thousands of strays roam the streets.



SAM NEWHOUSE
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sam.newhouse@metro.us

It turns out, all good dogs do go to heaven — or in this case, to Philadelphia.

Seven lucky pooches plucked off the streets of Puerto Rico will fly into Philadelphia on Tuesday to receive specialized veterinary treatment, the PSPCA announced, as part of efforts to relieve the suffering and widespread euthanasia of dogs on the island.

"We cannot close our eyes as we go about our everyday lives, seeing puppies or dogs left behind," said Sabine Bachner of Sato Dream Home, a Puerto Rican spay/neuter clinic that is helping to organize this mission of mercy. "It is our mission not only to get these dogs out of Puerto Rico to safety, but to visit schools and educate children about this epidemic. We cannot do it alone — we need the help of organizations like the PSPCA."

Puerto Rico's five municipal shelters have a euthanasia rate of 99 percent, and most dogs taken off the streets are put down after less than 24 hours, according to the PSPCA.

That's why the PSPCA partnered with Sato, based on the northern coast of Puerto Rico in Salinas, to bring dogs from the island to the PSPCA's Erie Avenue Shelter. Local advocates paid for the dogs' airfare on American Airlines to the City of Brotherly Love.

Sato Dream Home rescues dogs from areas where they are routinely dumped without access to food or water, like Puerto Rico's many mountains or beaches, and adopts them out to foster homes. It also leads educational programs about spay and neuter practices.

"The Pennsylvania SPCA has always been dedicated to utilizing all of our resources in order to save the lives of animals in need," PSPCA CEO Jerry Buckley said in a statement. "When we have the opportunity to make an impact on an area in great distress, we take action not only as an act of goodwill, but as an occasion to make a difference in the lives of these and future animals."

All seven dogs have been treated by veterinarians in Puerto Rico, but will be quarantined for 14 days at the Erie Avenue shelter while undergoing health and wellness checks.

Spike Lee joins boycott of 'mega-white' Oscars

Director Spike Lee GETTY IMAGES

The Academy Award nominations are the whitest since last year.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

When this year's Oscar nominations were announced Thursday, "Carol" not being among the Best Picture pack wasn't the only glaring omission. There was also a decided lack of nonwhite names. No Michael B. Jordan or director Ryan Coogler for "Creed," no Samuel L. Jackson for "The Hateful Eight," none of the trans stars of "Tangerine." Even the screenwriters for the N.W.A. saga "Straight Outta Compton" were white.

It's the whitest Oscars since, well, last year, when the Academy couldn't even get behind "Selma" star David Oyelowo and director/cowriter Ava DuVernay. Before that it hadn't been so white since 1998. And even on the on years it's never been great: As the Huffington Post broke it down, on average two or three nonwhite performers and filmmakers tend to be nominated, and sometime it's only one.

The backlash has been swift and mighty.

Now Spike Lee has joined the fray. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the filmmaker — whose "Chi-Raq" was a glorious and messy return to form (with no nominations) — sent out a lengthy Instagram message attached to a photo of a young MLK. Lee thanked the Academy for an honorary award he received in November, but said he too would be skipping out in protest of a batch of nominations he called "lilly white."

"How Is It Possible For The 2nd Consecutive Year All 20 Contenders Under The Actor Category Are White? [all of this is sic]," he wrote. "40 White Actors In 2 Years And No Flava At All. We Can't Act?! WTF!!"

He continued: "For Too Many Years When The Oscars Nominations Are Revealed, My Office Phone Rings Off The Hook With The Media Asking Me My Opinion About The Lack Of African-Americans And This Year Was No Different. For Once, (Maybe) I Would Like The Media To Ask All The White Nominees And Studio Heads How They Feel About Another All White Ballot."

BRIEF

Chris Rock and Jada Pinkett Smith call out superwhite year at the Oscars

As soon as the Academy Award nominations were announced last week, critics took notice of the suspicious lack of racial diversity, launching the pointed hashtag #OscarsSoWhite. Super awkward, right? Well, Oscars host Chris Rock isn't afraid of awkward. In a Twitter post for a video promoting the show, Rock slipped in a caption calling the Oscars "the White BET Awards." Ouch.

Not everyone is feeling jokey about the issue, though. Also on Twitter, Jada Pinkett Smith raised the idea of boycotting the show altogether. "At the Oscars, people of color are always welcomed to give out awards, even entertain," she wrote. "But we are rarely recognized for our artistic accomplishments. Should people of color refrain from participating all together? People can only treat us in the way in which we allow."

This might be a good time to also point out that "Magic Mike XXL" was shut out from the Oscar nominations, which is also just plain wrong.

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ILLUSTRATION BY BILLY BECERRA

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BRIEF

Seven killed in violence across Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast

Seven people, including two civilians, were killed in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast, security sources said on Monday, as the death toll from operations launched by security forces last month climbs into the hundreds.

State security forces in December intensified operations against the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), who dug trenches and erected barricades inside towns and cities after the collapse of a cease fire in July, reviving a 31-year conflict that has killed 40,000 people, mainly Kurds.

The PKK, which says it is fighting for autonomy for Turkey's Kurds, took up arms in 1984. It is designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and European Union.

A 35-year-old father of three was killed outside of his house in the town of Cizre, near the Iraqi and Syrian borders, amid violent clashes between the PKK and security forces, an official said on condition of anonymity.

Another man, aged 36, was shot in the head and left for dead while herding livestock outside of Cizre, he said. The sound of gunfire and explosions could be heard after nightfall in Cizre, witnesses said.

In Sirnak, two police officers were killed and three wounded when the bus they were on was hit by rocket fire.

In the nearby town of Idil, three police officers were killed and seven wounded when a bomb ripped through an armored vehicle on Sunday near the municipality building, sources said.

PKK fighters attacked a local military base with rocket launchers and rifles, causing no casualties, sources said. Reinforcements were sent to the town from neighboring Cizre and clashes were continuing in the area. REUTERS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
PHILADELPHIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) is a participant in the Moving to Work Demonstration Program (MTW) pursuant to an Amended and Restated Moving to Work Agreement (MTW Agreement) with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The MTW Agreement defines the terms and conditions under which PHA is a participant in the MTW Program and requires PHA to submit an MTW Annual Plan for HUD review and approval. PHA's MTW Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2016 was originally submitted to HUD in January 2015, and approved by HUD in September 2015.

PHA is seeking public review and comments on a proposed amendment to the FY 2016 MTW Annual Plan concerning PHA's plans to convert certain public housing units to project-based assistance under the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. The units consist of 272 vacant and uninhabitable scattered site public housing units. The proposed amendment provides information required by HUD concerning PHA's RAD conversion plans. The proposed amendment is incorporated in its entirety into the FY2016 MTW Annual Plan through an attachment entitled "Rental Assistance Demonstration Significant Amendment". It is available for public review and downloading on PHA's website at www.pha.phila.gov under the "Latest News" section or may be picked up at the following locations:

Public Housing Management Offices:
Bartram - 5404 Gibson Drive
Raymond Rosen- 2110 N. 23rd St.

Housing Choice Voucher Program Office:
2850 Germantown Ave 1st & 2nd Floor

Scattered Sites Management Offices:
Abbottsford Homes- 3226 McMichael St.
Westpark Apartments- 4445 Holden St.
Spring Garden Apartments - 715 Brandywine St.
Wilson Park- 2500 Jackson St.
Fairhill Apartments- 2411 N. 11th St.

PHA will conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed amendment. PHA residents, Housing Choice Voucher participants and the general public are invited to attend and provide comments at the Hearing and/or to submit written comments during the public comment period. The Public Hearing is scheduled for the following time and location:

Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.
12 South 23rd Street, 6th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The public comment period begins on January 18, 2016 at noon and ends February 17, 2016 at noon. All comments must be received at PHA's office by the end of the comment period. Please send written comments to:

Philadelphia Housing Authority
Office of Policy and Planning
Attention: MTW Plan Amendment Comment
12 South 23rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Public Hearing is being held in an accessible location. If you require assistance, sign language interpreter or other accommodations, please call 215-684-5767. Please use the AT&T Relay Service for TTY.

PHA
PHILADELPHIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

North Korea nuclear test paves way for party congress

Commuters walk past a television screen showing a broadcast of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's New Year speech. GETTY IMAGES

The Workers' Party Congress, once a regular event, was last held in 1980.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's recent nuclear weapon test was designed to boost his domestic legitimacy ahead of a rare ruling party conference in May that could formalize market-based economic experiments in the isolated country, analysts say.

Although violent, the years since Kim took power following his father's death in late 2011 have moved the country towards increased stability and a return to a more "formal" way of running the country, said Michael Madden, an expert on the North Korean leadership.

"What some observers and analysts identify as instability is really more a matter of Kim Jong Un trying to reset a very entrenched system."

"And that can take a few years, as we've seen," Madden said.

While analysts have for years been wrong in predicting major reforms — or collapse — in North Korea, the fact that the event is taking place for just the seventh time after a decades-long hiatus is a further indication that Kim is transforming the North Korea his father Kim Jong Il ruled through back-channel dealings into a more "normal" state where formal process is ingrained.

North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test on Jan. 6, provoking condemnation from its neighbors and the United States, although experts doubt Pyongyang's claim that it exploded a hydrogen bomb.

At the congress, Pyongyang is likely to announce policies on matters ranging from economics and politics to defense and relations with rival South Korea. It may even announce measures lifting restrictions on the thriving informal economy, said Cheong Seong-chang, a senior analyst at the Sejong Institute.

"It's possible Kim Jong Un may free up the market economy at some point during the congress," said Cheong.

When the last party congress took place over four days in 1980 at Pyongyang's February 8th House of Culture, a monolithic concrete pillar-fronted building since renamed the April 25th House of Culture, it was open to foreign delegations from countries friendly to North Korea. REUTERS

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BRIEF

With one eye on Moscow, Europe presses Ukraine on reforms

The European Union pressed Ukraine authorities on Monday to overcome political feuding and implement promised reforms as it looks to shore up the country's democratic and economic credentials.

Having so far failed to end the Russian-backed war in eastern Ukraine, Kiev's western supporters are now seeking to shift the focus onto modernization, concerned that the West's huge political investment in Ukraine could go to waste.

"We understand the pressures the Ukrainian government is under internally," said Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond at a meeting of EU foreign ministers. "But we continually remind them of their obligations under Minsk," Hammond told reporters, referring to the peace deal signed in February last year in the Belarusian capital.

Reforms tied to the Minsk accord, which was extended beyond its end-2015 deadline, would give Kiev more credibility, Hammond said.

That included changing Ukraine's constitution to grant special status to the Donbass industrial regions of eastern Ukraine now under rebel control.

Russia denies it has provided weapons to the rebels or that it has troops engaged in the conflict that has killed more than 8,000 people since it broke out April 2014, following Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula.

Rebels and the Ukrainians complain of violations of the ceasefire negotiated as part of the Minsk deal. Both said heavy artillery, meant to have been withdrawn, is still being used. REUTERS

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Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

UK discusses Trump ban after Muslim comments

Members of parliament said Trump should be allowed into Britain where his views could be challenged, that a ban would give him more publicity or that it was not for Britain to get involved in US affairs.

British lawmakers on Monday debated a petition to ban U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump from Britain over remarks on Muslims, but while describing his comments as "crazy" and "offensive," most said the ban would go against free speech.

Trump caused outrage last month with his comments that Muslims should be banned from entering the United States. He spoke after 14 people died in a shooting spree in California by two Muslims whom the FBI said had been radicalized.

His comments prompted more than half a million Britons to sign a petition calling for him to be barred from entering the country, where he has business interests.

The three-hour debate saw lawmakers from all sides criticize Trump's comments. While it was not followed by a vote, many more lawmakers spoke against a ban than for it.

> *"The U.S. remains our most important bilateral partner."*
>
> Brokenshire

"I want to see Donald Trump come to this country. ... I want him to get a sense of the fury and the frustration with his xenophobic remarks," said Gavin Robinson, a lawmaker from Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party.

Only interior minister Theresa May can issue an order banning entry into Britain and Prime Minister David Cameron has said while Trump's comments were "divisive, unhelpful and wrong", he does not back the idea of barring him.

Immigration Minister James Brokenshire said the government did not comment on who it was considering for exclusion but said "a frank and open exchange of views" was the most effective way to influence Trump. REUTERS

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Iran boosts oil output, many foreign firms keen to seal deals

A clutch of German firms were among those to signal their appetite to ramp up business ties with Tehran.

Iran ordered a sharp increase in oil output on Monday to take immediate advantage of the lifting of international sanctions, and some foreign firms raced to snap up deals as Tehran emerges from years of international isolation.

Others were more wary, mindful of the risk of falling foul of residual U.S. penalties despite the lifting of nuclear-related sanctions by the United States, European Union and United Nations.

Those measures were scrapped as part of a landmark deal between Iran and world powers, rewarding the Islamic Republic for scaling back its atomic energy program in ways that U.S. President Barack Obama said would prevent it from getting its hands on a nuclear bomb.

"We will be committed to the nuclear deal as far as the other side is," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Monday, adding that his country was "morally and religiously committed not to seek weapons of mass destruction."

The agreement restores Iran's access to tens of billions of dollars in frozen assets, reopens the country to foreign investment and allows it to resume selling oil on world markets, albeit at a time when they are drowning in excess supply.

Deputy Oil Minister Rokneddin Javadi said Iran could increase output by 500,000 barrels a day "and the order to increase production was issued today".

The sanctions revoked at the weekend had cut Iran's oil exports by about 2 million barrels per day since their pre-sanctions 2011 peak, to little more than 1 million bpd.

An oil tanker is seen off the port of Bandar Abbas, southern Iran. GETTY IMAGES

Oil prices touched their lowest since 2003 on Monday as the market braced for additional Iranian oil exports.

The lifting of sanctions opens up business opportunities across a host of sectors, from planes to telecoms.

"Iran is a huge market and in our focus," Kaan Terzioglu, head of Turkey's biggest mobile operator, Turkcell, said in an interview with Reuters.

He said Iran could be a target market as the company looks for regional acquisitions: "We are closely watching the Iranian market and in touch with all of its fixed line and mobile operators." REUTERS

BRIEF

Invites to Syria talks on hold, agreement on opposition needed: UN

The United Nations said on Monday it would not issue invitations to peace talks between Syria's government and opposition set to begin on Jan. 25 until major powers pushing the peace process reach agreement on which rebel representatives should attend.

"At this stage the U.N. will proceed with issuing invitations when the countries spearheading the ISSG (International Syria Support Group) process come to an understanding on who among the opposition should be invited," U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq said.

The countries driving the diplomatic initiative on Syria include the United States, Russia and other European and Middle Eastern powers, including rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran.

U.N. diplomats said it looks increasingly likely that the U.N.-brokered talks between Syria's government and opposition will be delayed.

The talks planned for Jan. 25 in Geneva are part of a peace process endorsed by the U.N. Security Council last month in a rare display of international agreement on Syria. REUTERS

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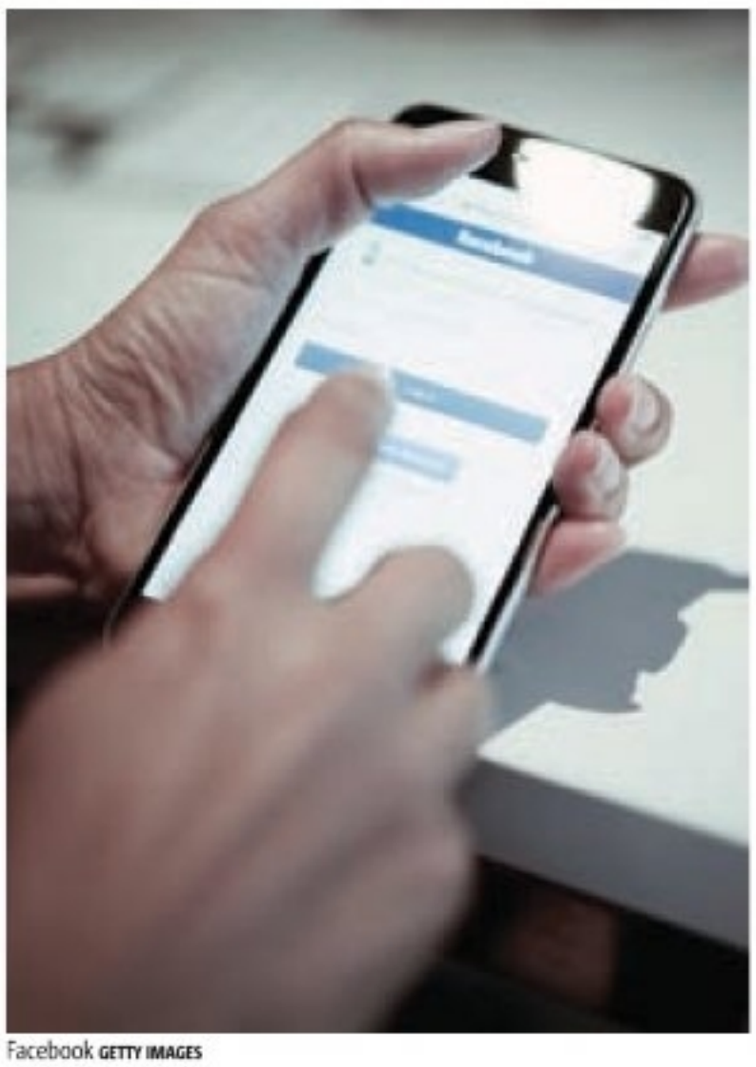
Facebook begins Europewide campaign against extremist posts



Facebook GETTY IMAGES

Facebook began a Europewide campaign Monday to thwart extremist posts on social media, after German politicians in particular raised concerns about a rise in xenophobic comments linked to an influx of refugees.

The U.S.-based group launched its "Initiative for Civil Courage Online" in Berlin, pledging more than $1.09 million to support nongovernmental organizations in their efforts to counter racist and xenophobic posts.

Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg said hate speech "has no place in our society," including in the Internet.

Facebook's ground rules forbid bullying, harassment and threatening language, but critics say the social network does not enforce them properly.

On Friday, the firm said it had hired a unit of the publisher Bertelsmann to monitor and delete racist posts on its platform in Germany.

In November, prosecutors in Hamburg launched an investigation into Facebook on suspicion of not doing enough to prevent the dissemination of hate speech.

Top German politicians and celebrities have voiced concern about the rise of anti-foreigner comments on Facebook and other social media as the country struggles to cope with a tide of migrants that amounted to 1.1 million last year alone.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has urged Facebook to do more, and the Justice Ministry set up a task force with Facebook and other social networks and Internet service providers with the aim of identifying criminal posts more quickly and taking them down. REUTERS

Hardwood fashion

The sneakers of Ish Smith, No. 1 of the Philadelphia 76ers, during the game against the New York Knicks on Monday at Madison Square Garden in New York.

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US sailors held captive by Iran were held at gunpoint: US military

The 10 U.S. sailors who were briefly detained by the Iranian military last week were held at gunpoint and had a verbal exchange with Iranian personnel before they were released, the U.S. military said Monday.

In its most comprehensive timeline of the incident to date, the U.S. military the sailors also had two SIM cards pulled out of their satellite phones, but that there was no gunfire exchange. There were no details on the verbal exchange.

The U.S. sailors, who were aboard two patrol craft, were detained by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Jan. 12 when they inadvertently entered Iranian territorial waters.

An undated picture released by Iran's Revolutionary Guards website shows American sailors sitting in a unknown place in Iran. SEPAHNEWS.IR/TIMA HANDOUT

They were released the next day.

The U.S. military said the Americans were intercepted after the diesel engine in one of their boats developed a mechanical problem, although it was unclear if the crew was aware of their precise location.

The sailors were released unharmed and are in good health.

Their prompt release came just days before world powers lifted crippling sanctions on Iran in return for Tehran's implementation of a deal curbing its nuclear program.

Secretary of State John Kerry said on CNN that once he heard about the sailors' detention, he was "very frustrated and angry," and that "I raised it immediately with the Iranians." REUTERS

BRIEF

Iraq searching for three US citizens reportedly abducted

Security forces in Baghdad were hunting for three U.S. citizens who Iraqi lawmakers said on Monday had been kidnapped, which, if confirmed, would make them the first Americans abducted in the country since U.S. troops withdrew in 2011.

Unknown gunmen seized the trio from a private apartment on Friday in the capital's southeastern Dora district, said Mohammed al-Karbouli, who sits on parliament's security and defense panel. It was not immediately clear if their motives were political or criminal.

Iskandar Witwit, deputy head of the same panel, gave a similar account citing senior security officials who said the civilians had been taken from the district's Sihha residential complex.

Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim militia fighters, seen as a bulwark in the fight against Islamic State militants, have a heavy presence in that part of the predominately Sunni district.

Witwit said the three were employed by a private company and two of them also have Iraqi citizenship. REUTERS

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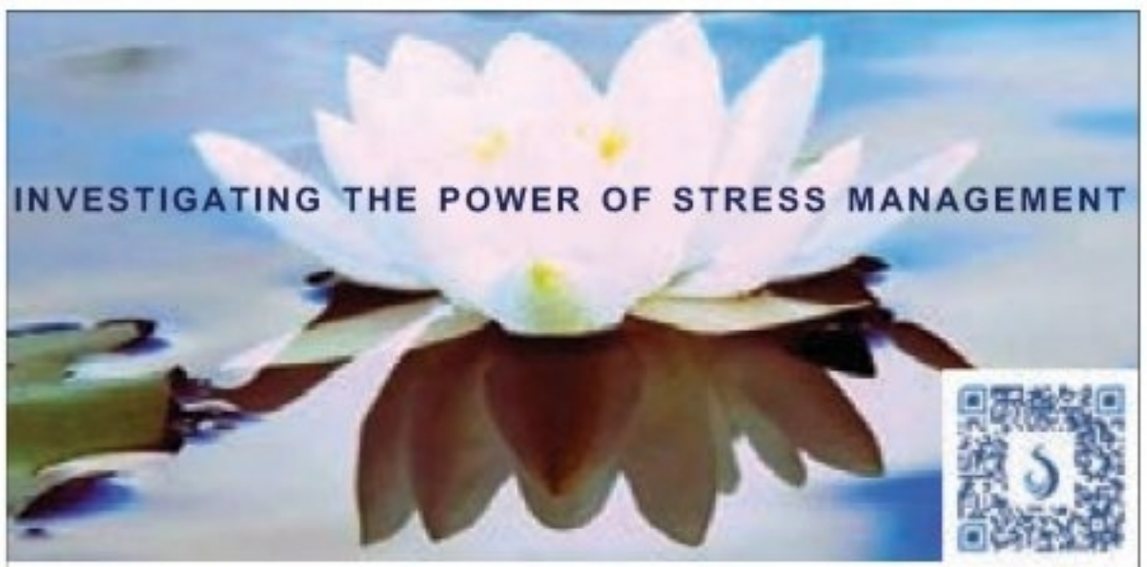

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Ohio officer dead; man accused of hunting police is in custody

A man accused of hunting police officers was in custody on Monday after an officer in the central Ohio village of Danville was found dead, his gun and cruiser missing, Knox County Sheriff David Shaffer said.

Police received a call close to midnight on Sunday from a woman who said her ex-boyfriend, Herschel Jones III, "had left with weapons and was looking to kill an officer," Shaffer said in a statement.

"(She said) police officers in Danville were in danger," Shaffer said.

Police dispatchers issued an urgent call to officers but were unable to reach Danville Police Officer Thomas Cottrell. Knox County deputies began searching the village, about 60 miles northeast of Columbus.

Herschel Jones III is shown in this police booking photo provided by the Knox County Sheriff's Office in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Less than 30 minutes later, they found Cottrell deceased, his body on the ground behind the Danville Municipal Building, the sheriff said. His gun and cruiser were gone.

Two hours later, officers spotted Jones running from a home and, after a short foot chase, took him into custody.

Authorities are investigating the incident, and no further information was released.

REUTERS

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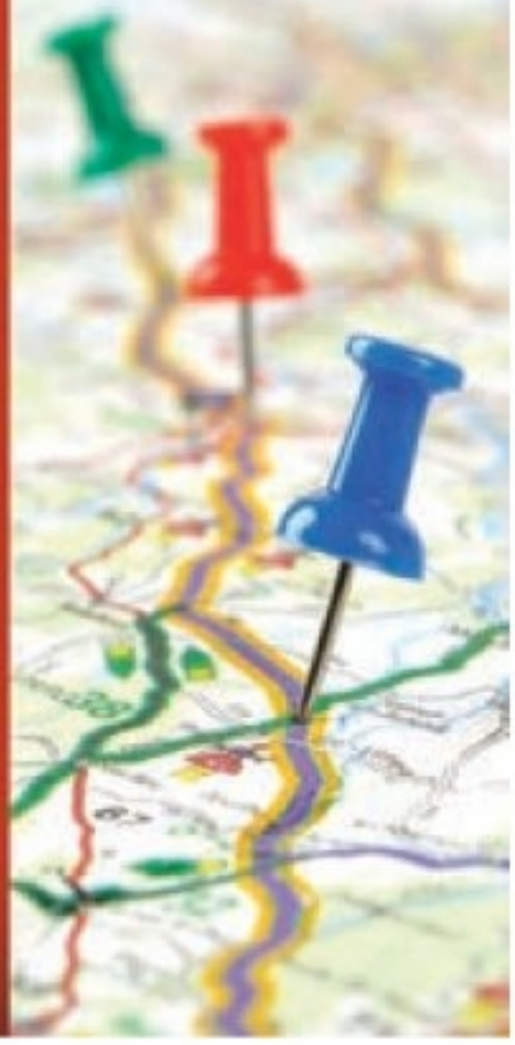

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Miley Cyrus flashes old engagement ring

It looks like that whole rumored reunion with ex-fiancé Liam Hemsworth is coming along nicely, if Miley Cyrus' latest choice in jewelry is any indication. The outlandish singer has been spotted sporting a rock that looks suspiciously like the engagement ring Hemsworth gave her that she wore until their split in 2013. Cyrus arrived in NYC on Sunday and stepped off the plane wearing the item in question, glittering in the flashbulbs as she shielded her face from the paparazzi. And then the next day she posted a photo on Instagram prominently displaying the ring, though her caption was more in reference to her strawberry-themed outfit. So it looks like she likes having it on. How much should we be reading into this?

Hailey Baldwin's dad dismisses Bieber romance rumors

So are Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin actually dating? Not so much, at least according to her dad, third-most-employable Baldwin brother Stephen Baldwin. TMZ caught up with him outside LAX to quiz him about his daughter's doings, and Pops insists that "dating" is the wrong word for it. "There's no label on it. Just friends," Stephen says. But apparently the proud father would be totally into it if they did want to date, because he's all about the Biebs. "Mr. Bieber is a wonderful young man, hugely talented," Stephen says. "[He's] got a whole lot more success ahead of him." And who would know more about success than Stephen Baldwin?

Jay-Z and Beyonce moving back to NYC

Good news, New Yorkers. You may soon have everyone's favorite probably-Illuminati power couple back on home turf, as Jay Z and Beyonce are reportedly shopping around for a new NYC nest in which to land, according to Star magazine. Blue Ivy's parents have been spending much of the last year living it up in a rental property in Los Angeles, but apparently it's time to get back into an Empire state of mind, as they're "definitely" scoping out some new digs. "Although nothing has been confirmed they have been looking in New York," a source says. "They've said that they want to be closer to their family on the East Coast. They know that they need places in both L.A. and N.Y." Sure! Who doesn't?

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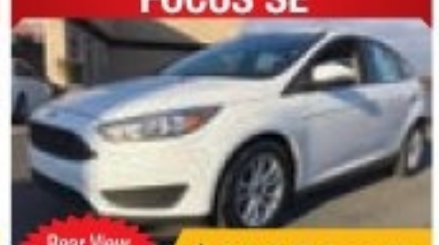

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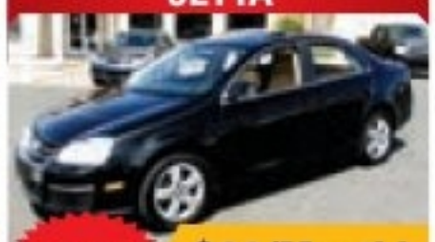

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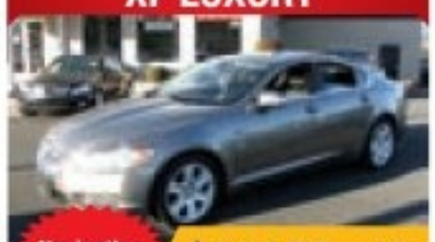

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Olivia Munn ignores the haters

The actress talks "Ride Along 2" and the crazy ways she gets in shape.

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Olivia Munn plays a detective alongside Ice Cube and Kevin Hart in "Ride Along 2." QUANTRELL D. COLBERT

Olivia Munn once got slammed from some outlets, including Jezebel, for being the pretty comedian during her stint on "The Daily Show." Now she gets heat from sports journalists who blame her for every fumble boyfriend Green Bay Packers QB Aaron Rodgers makes on the field.

"People can say really nice things, and people can say really horrible things. The key is I don't believe any of the bad stuff, and I don't believe any of the good," says Munn, 35. "If I believe the good stuff, I have to believe the bad."

Another coping mechanism: hitting the gym hard.

In the comedy "Ride Along 2," she plays a detective working with Ice Cube and Kevin Hart. And although that's a part-time action film, it set her up for her role as Psylocke in the forthcoming "X-Men: Apocalypse."

Munn talks to us about life in the Green Bay and doing pushups midair.

You studied journalism and used to be a reporter before you became an entertainer. Do you miss it?

I love storytelling. Journalism is great because it's not about you. I love asking questions, and when I meet people, I just want to sit and ask them a million things. It comes in handy. I've called some journalists out on social media, and it brought back my own feelings of being a journalist. I would end up doing more research than the people who are actually working for media, who are supposed to be highly respected and trusted. I can't help but have that kind of brain, where I want to ask questions, want to find something out.

How have you taken to life among sports culture?

I live in Green Bay a lot of the time, and I love my life there. It's such a great community, with the teammates and their wives. I get such great support there. It's a family.

You've spent the last handful of years all over the map. This is at least part action, as is "X-Men: Apocalypse." How was it picking up new skills?

For "Ride Along 2," I was able to practice holding and feeling comfortable with a gun, and how to be safe with a gun. But when it came to "X-Men," that was completely different. Everything stepped up. I started working out six, seven hours a day when I wasn't working, and doing taekwondo, doing swords. That was my choice, to work out that much. For the character to be lethal, I had to feel that capable and strong. It's something that's stayed with me. I want to keep it up, because when you feel strong and capable, it's an addictive feeling — to have this strength you didn't have before.

There were actually photos of you exercising on a plane.

That was taken by a friend of mine — not my trainer, but a trainer. We had been running around everywhere and hadn't had a chance to work out. So she was like, "We're gonna do it on a plane!" It's hard on a plane.

It can't be easy keeping your balance.

Balance wasn't that hard. It was the altitude. [Chuckles] I was like, "I'm getting winded really fast!"

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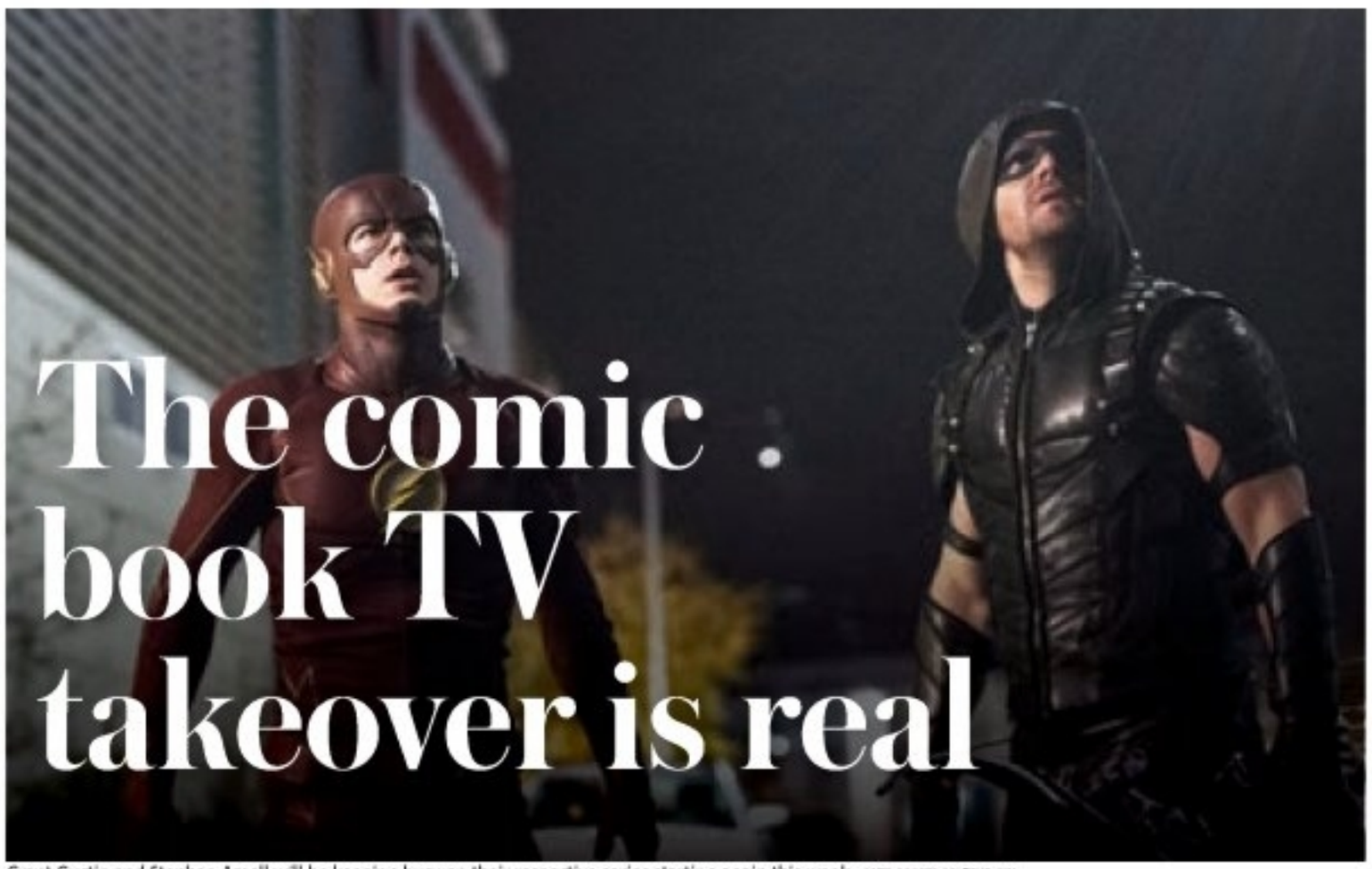

The comic book TV takeover is real

Grant Gustin and Stephen Amell will be keeping busy on their respective series starting again this week. CATE CAMERON/THE CW

Hayley Atwell returns as the 1950's best secret agent in "Agent Carter." ABC TELEVISION STUDIOS

It's a great week to be a comics geek in prime time.

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Sure, comic books have come to dominate the multiplex — just ask everyone waiting to see whether "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice" is any good. But while Marvel and DC have been raking in billions at the box office, the genre has quietly been developing quite a foothold in TV as well — and this week is like catnip for comic book fans.

"The Flash" (Tuesday, 8 p.m., The CW)

Things are getting pretty hairy for the fastest man alive over on "The Flash," and even though Barry Allen (Grant Gustin) survived his big crossover event with "Arrow" — that helped set audiences up for the premiere of "Legends of Tomorrow" — he's got plenty more on his plate, including a trip through the multiverse to Earth 2.

"Marvel's Agent Carter" Tuesday, 9 p.m., ABC

Last year's surprise hit is back for another far-too-abbreviated season, with Hayley Atwell showing once again that you have to be a hell of a woman to be a match for Captain America. This year, her work as a gadget-happy spy takes her to Hollywood — just in time for some '50s Hollywood glamour. (Her modern-day colleagues on "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." won't be back until March 8.)

"Arrow" Wednesday, 8 p.m., The CW

We're already well into the fourth season of DC's show about a wealthy masked vigilante with no superpowers fighting to clean up a gritty city — but with a bow and arrow, not a bunch of bat paraphernalia. Stephen Amell's turn as Oliver Queen and his hooded alter ego certainly seems to be working.

"DC's Legends of Tomorrow" Thursday, 8 p.m., The CW

The CW is doing a pretty great job of building a thriving comic book empire, so it's nice to see them getting a bit riskier with their latest outing: A time-traveler (Arthur Darvill) grabs a bunch of heroes from across time to fend of the apocalypse in the far future. For the extra-nerdy geek fans out there, enjoy the fact that the cast includes former Superman Brandon Routh — of "Superman Returns" infamy — and retired "Doctor Who" companion Darvill.

"Heroes Reborn" Thursday, 8 p.m., NBC

Arthur Darvill as Rip Hunter and Brandon Routh as Ray Palmer in "DC's Legends of Tomorrow," premiering Thursday night on The CW. JEFF WEDDELL/THE CW

While the relaunched series was created originally for television and not based on a preexisting comic book, it still trades heavily in the medium's tropes — just not all that well sometimes. But tune in this week for the season finale of the newly revamped version, especially since it was just announced last week that there won't be a Season 2.

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‘Awkward Sex... and the City’: Still awkward, but with new sex

The comedy tour is coming to town. Twice.

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Natalie Wall

The cast of the “Cold May Cause Shrinkage” tour. MEREDITH TRUAX

We can all agree the best thing to come out of an awkward sexual encounter is the opportunity to tell your friends about it. But what about a room full of strangers?

It’s what comedian Natalie Wall does on a regular basis — and she brings a rotating batch of fellow comedians to do it with her. Her show, “Awkward Sex... and the City,” features Moth-style storytelling of the comedy troupe’s most embarrassing stories from between the sheets.

Wall, who started the concept as a personal blog in New York before branching out to the stage, says she’s working to make the show more socially involved and aware, and hopes her embarrassing tales promote accepting, sex-positive culture and education.

“When the show started, it was more about awkward sex, which is exactly what it says in the title, but I feel it’s become so much more inclusive,” she says. “It’s for learning about different types of sex and relationships, and how all of those are OK.”

This tour, (fittingly) titled “Cold May Cause Shrinkage,” features a brand new set of stories by Meghan O’Malley, Carly Ann Filbin, Bobby Hankinson, Emmy Harrington and newbie Anita Flores.

Hankinson, the show’s first and only man, is also a recent add to the long-standing ladies only show. “It was needed,” Wall said. “It was starting to feel a little one-sided.”

As for the awkwardness, Wall says the stories range from “first times” to “foot fetishes” to going home with a guy and realizing he still lives with his parents. Her own awkward story involves a lie about period cramps and diarrhea while at the home of a new lover — but we won’t spoil the ending.

Sure, it’s pretty awkward, but Wall reminds us: That’s a good thing.

“Sex in itself is awkward and it’s not often portrayed awkwardly in movies,” she says. “It’s been a good outlet for people to be like ‘OK, cool. It’s normal that my sex life isn’t perfect.’ I think [awkward sex is] one of those memories a lot of people repress, so when people hear can hear a million other stories, it makes them way more comfortable with their sexuality.”

“Awkward Sex... and the City” comes to L’etage (24 S. 6th St.) on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m., and PhilaMOCA (531 N 12th St.) on April 6 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $15 at awkwardsexandthecity.com/tour, $20 at the door.

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Joanna Pascale knows how to improvise

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There's a Duke Ellington quote that gets tossed around a lot: "There are only two kinds of music," the great composer reportedly said. "Good music, and the other kind."

It wasn't surprising to hear Mary Javian evoke that line in relation to LiveConnections. The organization was founded to bring together musicians from different genres to create new sounds that bridge their stylistic divides. It's especially appropriate for this Friday's program, which, like Ellington, draws on both jazz and classical music.

"I'd rather focus on the similarities than the differences," Javian says, "I'm always looking for artists and ensembles that want to expand their horizons musically and want a new challenge."

Friday's concert at World Café Live pairs Philadelphia jazz singer Joanna Pascale with Curtis Institute of Music's new music ensemble, Curtis 20/21. The ensemble will perform two early 20th-century classical pieces influenced by jazz: Darius Milhaud's "La Création du Monde" and a unique chamber arrangement of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." Pascale will join for a selection of film composer Michel Legrand's songs and the world premiere of Gabriella Smith's new piece "Forgotten Lullabies."

"We're closer related than maybe people realize," Pascale says of the jazz and classical worlds. "The things I'm most attracted to in music is lyrics and story. That's really the heart of everything I do, and I hope people can take away the magnitude of these lyrics combined with the vehicle of these melodies, and that they're touched."

A gifted singer with a captivating voice and a love for burrowing deep inside the story of a song, Pascale welcomes the opportunity to break away from her usual settings — typically a small jazz group or a raucous big band — and place herself in a new context. "In jazz you have a lot of room for freedom and a lot of space for improvisation," she says. "It's been fun to play with color and pulse. I feel like it's pulling out a different way of singing for me."

That's exactly the type of reaction Javian hopes the LiveConnections experience has on musicians and audiences alike. This season will continue with concerts pairing cello with percussion quartet and a fusion of Western classical and Arab music. "I feel like we leave two imprints on the musical culture of Philadelphia and hopefully beyond," Javian says. "We're creating new repertoire, but we're also creating relationships between artists."

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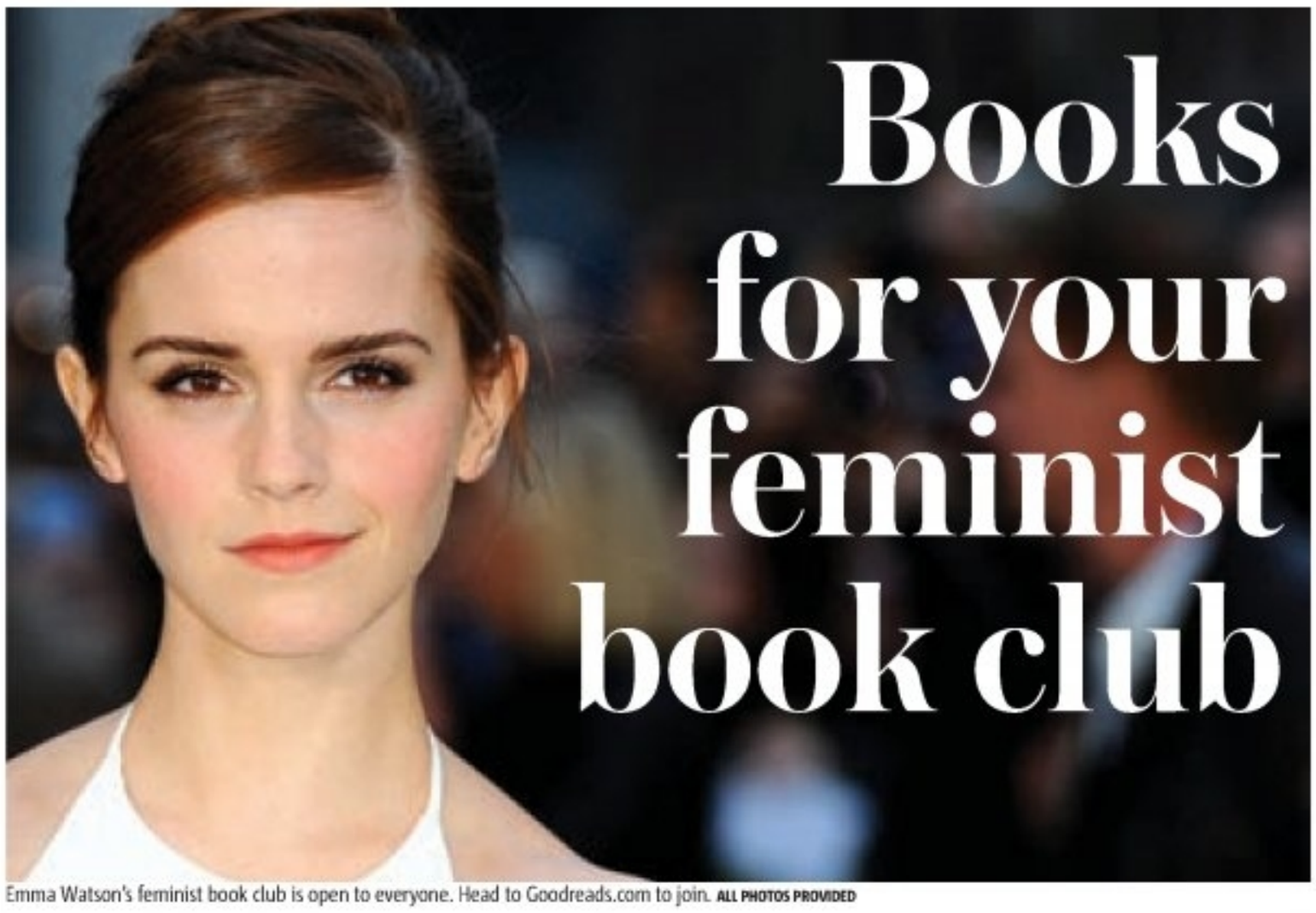

Books for your feminist book club

Emma Watson's feminist book club is open to everyone. Head to Goodreads.com to join. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

These new releases are sure to get your friends talking.

EMILY LAURENCE
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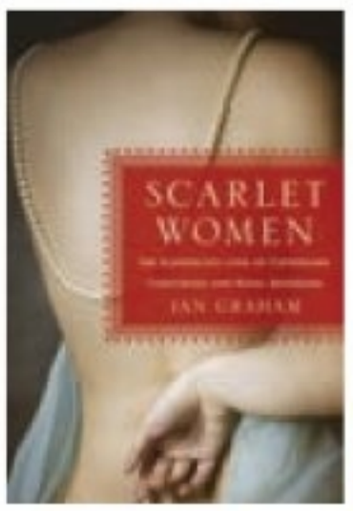
If you want to take Emma Watson's lead and start your own feminist book club in 2016, there is no shortage of books coming out that can help you get started. Watson's book club is partnered with UN Women and off to a terrific start — the first book is Gloria Steinem's "My Life on the Road" — but the three highlighted here are new and buzzy. Call your friends, grab the wine or whiskey and get cracking!

"Scarlet Women" by Ian Graham

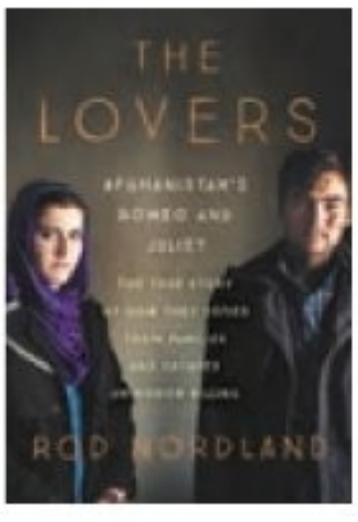


Journalist Ian Graham lets readers into the bedrooms and lives of some of the most famous mistresses and courtesans of all time in "Scarlet Women" (out Jan. 26). While many were severely judged, Graham shows that there's more than meets the eye, and many of these women served an invaluable secret purpose. The stories — from scamming the wealthiest men in the world to truly falling in love with someone already married — will have you and your book club cohorts rethinking what it means to put bros before hos.

"Lean Out" by Dawn Foster

Sheryl Sandberg's 2013 book "Lean In" became the business bible for career women everywhere, but journalist Dawn Foster — who covers politics, social affairs and economics for The Guardian — says it's bollocks. In "Lean Out" (out tomorrow), she gives the finger to businesses, capitalism and the patriarchy, saying these outer forces should be what have to change, not women themselves. Whether you totally agree or respectfully disagree with her, the book is sure to spark a lively conversation for your book club about what women in the workplace should or should not be doing to get ahead.

"The Lovers" by Rod Nordland



Chances are, you and your friends complain about dating and relationships all the time. But we have it relatively easy compared to what couples face in some other countries. In "The Lovers" (out Jan. 27), New York Times Kabul Bureau Chief Rob Nordland chronicles the true story of a "Romeo and Juliet"-esque tale, set in Afghanistan. Zakia and Ali bucked Afghan civil and Islamic law by falling in love despite coming from different tribes. The couple still lives together in hiding — with their baby girl — hoping to remain undiscovered from authorities and Zakia's family, who wants to restore their family's honor — by killing their child.

There is another way to eat

This is not how you should be thinking about food. ISTOCK

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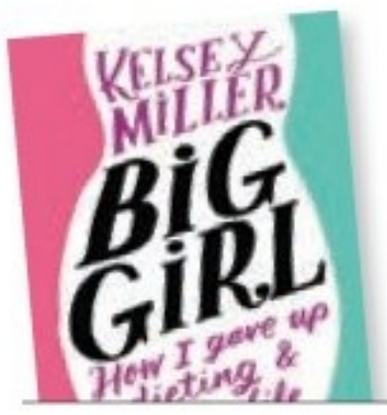
Like it or not, we live in a world that has made skinniness a virtue, and that means what we eat becomes a moral choice. Ironically, it's the people we think of as having "lost" the food game — chronic dieters — who know best that trying to feed a psychological hunger rather than a physical one will never satisfy either.

"As with many people, food very early on became the outlet for everything else," recalls Kelsey Miller, who chronicled her breakup with dieting in Refinery29's The Anti-Diet Project column. "Distraction in general was a big problem for me, and food was the easiest, most accessible and immediate, visceral escape."



Miller had tried to manage her weight with various diets and rigorous exercise routines from childhood until age 29, when she collapsed during a Spartan run. Instead of continuing to torture herself into wellness, she decided to try intuitive eating, which is as simple as it is daunting: She gave up letting anyone else tell her what to eat and started listening to what her body wanted.

Three years later, that journey is now her first book, "Big Girl: How I Gave Up Dieting and Got a Life." If the idea of a healthier relationship with food — and maybe even your own body — appeals to you, here's what Miller discovered about eating from having to learn how to do it all over again.

Redefine what it means to enjoy food

The enjoyment that food provided before Miller began eating intuitively had little to do with actual hunger. The satisfaction was emotional: the thrill of "being bad," bingeing or using a special occasion to eat whatever she wanted.

Enjoying food now means asking herself "What do I want to eat right now?" instead of letting occasions set the rules; "Is it good?" instead of eating whatever is available; and "Am I enjoying this?" instead of bingeing being its own reward.

Food is not good or bad

Many foods may as well have one-word labels depending on the shifting sands of nutrition fads and diet trends. "Whenever you have that sense of forbidden fruit around something, especially from that very early age, that's when you start to act a little crazy around it, that's when it becomes something more than food," Miller says.

Where dieting is about restrictions, intuitive eating is "much more about curiosity and exploring and figuring it all out. When you take that element of judgment away, that's when you learn what works for you and that's when food gets to be a little more neutral."

Yes, you will eat better (eventually)

Intuitive eating is empowering — instead of letting a diet control your body, you acknowledge and satisfy what it wants. This may not sound like a great idea at first, however, and Miller freely admits to thinking she would "overdose on pizza" when she started.

But she rode it out, and everything shifted once it clicked that these foods would always be available: "The carb cravings normalized and then went away." She also learned that the "protein hit" of having an egg for breakfast helped her function better, as did eating more vegetables.

Get the most from your meal

Intuitive eating shifts the focus from what you eat to how you eat — think of it as mindfulness for the stomach. Miller makes sure to eat at least one meal daily without distractions: no screens, no headphones, not even another person. She says it's helped her taste the food better, feel the beginnings of fullness and get ahead of future cravings by having her fill of a particular flavor.

"It makes you engage with your food," she says. "That ritual, even if it's just one meal, bleeds into the rest of the day."

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What causes someone to snap?

The truth about how the brain works when it comes to rage.

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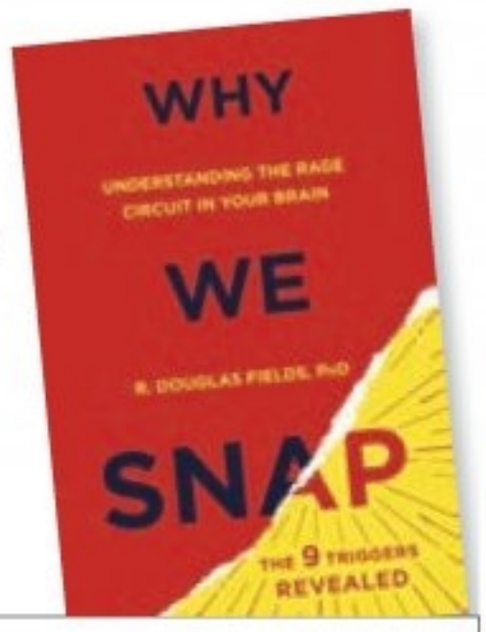
Neurobiologist Doug Fields is a typically easygoing guy. He isn't the type of dude who would, say, lash out at another driver for cutting him off in traffic. But when he was robbed while vacationing in Spain, he completely flipped out and got into a violent fight.

We see this sort of snap in big ways and small ways every day. It dominates headlines when someone starts shooting at a public place. And we see it in smaller ways on our morning commutes. What exactly happens in the brain that causes someone to freak out? Doug Fields obsessively researched why and published his findings in "Why We Snap."

It can happen to you

"Anyone can snap given the right provocation," Fields tells us. "We will all react aggressively and violently in certain situations." Fields studied the neuro circuits in the brain and found rage triggers everyone has. "Why We Snap" outlines nine, but some of the most common ones are a life or death threat, threat to a loved one, threat to your home and or threat to your tribe.

"Our brain is wired to constantly be on the lookout for threats," Fields says. "In response to sudden danger, we react automatically; you can't think about it."



The brain has nine rage triggers that can anyone to snap. ISTOCK

Instincts aren't always bad

When it comes to rage circuits and the unconscious workings of the brain, Fields says it's a double-edged sword. "Athletes, for example, depend on their threat-detection center working," he says. Being able to act quickly without thinking about what the" correct" response is can even be life-saving: Fields points out that soldiers in a combat zone or inner-city youth depend on it.

"We only call it snapping when the outcome is wrong," he says. "When you look in the brain, the same circuits are activated when we say someone is heroic or 'quick thinking.'"

How to not react the wrong way

So, how do you make sure these innate reactions make you a hero and not a criminal? Fields says the key is identifying what the trigger of your rage is. (His book gives an easy-to-remember mnemonic to help.)

"When you feel a certain anger and you feel yourself tense up, quickly think: What is the trigger? As soon as you identify the trigger it just goes away because you realize this is not a situation where getting into a physical battle is going to help. And so it's not even a cognitive process involved, other than identifying the trigger."

Again, it all comes back to biology: "The triggers are designed to protect you. They are not bad. What you have to do is identify the trigger," Fields says.

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Eagles, Pederson have 11 free agents

Who stays and who goes of the Eagles' potential free agents?

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With new head coach Doug Pederson officially on the job, it's time to get to work. What will Pederson, Howie Roseman and company decide to do with the 11 players slated to be off the Eagles ledger this spring? Here's a quick look at the guys who could be leaving:

Sam Bradford, QB ($12.95 million last year): The biggest and most important decision for the Birds will be what they do at quarterback. One option is the franchise tag, which will cost Philly around $18 million but also allow them to keep Bradford for one more year before deciding on a long-term strategy. They can also negotiate long-term with the QB, who will be one of the most attractive at his position when free agency begins this spring.

Cedric Thornton, DE ($2.36 million last year): The 27-year-old had one sack and 33 tackles as Fletcher Cox's counterpart on the defensive line. He is probably a bit better than his numbers suggest as a pass-rusher and run-stopper and could get paid as a free agent. Will the Eagles match an offer?

Vinny Curry, DE ($1.07 million last year): Curry had 3.5 sacks last season and was a solid option for the Eagles front three. The problem was, he played behind Cox and Thornton. Look for the Eagles to keep at least one of the two (Curry or Thornton) if they can.

Walter Thurmond, S ($3.25 million last year): Thurmond had three interceptions and 71 tackles from the safety spot this season and was one of the brighter spots on the Eagles lackluster defense. He will be a good candidate to return next season, depending on the scheme.

The focus of this offseason will soon shift to whether or not Sam Bradford will return. GETTY IMAGES

E.J. Biggers, CB ($745,000 last year): Biggers came on late in the year for some injured members of the Eagles defensive backfield and was good, not great. For the price, he could return and compete for a spot on the 53-man roster.

Nolan Carroll, CB ($2.9 million last year): The cornerback was very solid for the Eagles alongside Byron Maxwell before getting injured in Week 10. He had 57 tackles and two interceptions in eight and a half games and, if healthy, would be a good piece to return to the secondary in 2016.

Matt Tobin, G ($585,000 last year): Tobin started in all 16 games this past season and started in 13, after earning a starting job in training camp. Don't be surprised to see him once again vying for a starting job, if the Birds don't draft or sign some offensive line help.

Seyi Ajirotutu, WR ($745,000 last year): "Tutu" was a great player for the Eagles special teams unit, one of the best in football last season.

Najee Goode, LB ($516,000 last year): Strictly a backup, Goode will likely return on the 90-man roster this summer.

Thad Lewis, QB ($657,000 last year): The third-stringer won't be here next season.

David Molk, C ($361,000 last year): Molk was a versatile backup offensive lineman for an injured unit.

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MACNOW: DEAR DOUG, A FEW THINGS ...

The Eagles and Pederson, according to CSN's Ruben Frank, will bring in Frank Reich as offensive coordinator. GETTY IMAGES

GLEN MACNOW

OPINION

MGlen Macnow has been an outspoken voice in Philly sports for nearly three decades.
@realglenmacnow

Welcome back, Coach Pederson. I can't say the town is ecstatic to see you. But while the reception might be tepid, every Eagles devotee wants you to succeed. So here are five bits of advice to turn around the franchise and the fan base.

1 The biggest decision you'll make is defensive coordinator.

Chip Kelly blew it with Billy Davis. Two aspects are critical: Hire a 4-3 practitioner, because that scheme better fits the personnel you're inheriting. (This probably rules out local favorite Mike Pettine). And use this spot to add an old-head guru who knows the NFL wars better than you and can be the experienced voice you'll need.

For Andy Reid, that sage was Jim Johnson. For you, that should be Lovie Smith. At 58, Lovie just got pushed out at Tampa, because the Bucs want an offensive head coach to direct Jameis Winston's future. Their loss should be your gain.

2 Your next critical decision is quarterback.

You're kind of stuck here. It would be a mistake to scrap Sam Bradford, because there's no rookie to draft at Pick 13 who projects to be any better. It would likewise be foolish for the Eagles to commit long-term to Bradford based on a half-dozen strong games at the end of the season.

Hedge your bet, Doug. Persuade Jeff Lurie to franchise Bradford for 2016 — at the outrageous cost of $21 million. It gives you the chance to assess if he'll become a late-developing star (like Carson Palmer) or another first-round washout (like, uh, Mark Sanchez).

3 Focus next season's offense around DeMarco Murray.

Kelly's chronic misuse of Murray ranks among the exiled coach's worst crimes. But you've seen a stud running back used properly, having spent the past few seasons around Jamaal Charles and Reid, of all people.

Murray won't ever rush for the 1,845 yards he had in Dallas in 2014. But you can get 1,200 from him next season — and add a full yard to that 3.6 per-attempt average.

4 Of course, that means rebuilding the offensive line.

Kelly, like Buddy Ryan decades earlier, ignored that critical unit. We once hollered when Andy spent first-round picks on those sides of beef. We promise we won't gripe if you go back there (as long as it isn't Danny Watkins).

5 Finally, don't treat the media (and thus the fans) like chumps.

Try not to lie (as did Kelly) or stonewall (like Reid). Reporters' questions may be inane or annoying, particularly in the aftermath of a loss. But those news conferences are the only view most fans get of the coach. Make it work for you.

And don't be afraid to pick the fertile minds of our football community. People like Ike Reese, Ray Didinger, Brian Westbrook and Seth Joyner (bring your flak jacket) have insight into the sport and this city's passionate relation to it.

That's it, coach. We're all behind you. At least today.

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Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated: **1553 Grant Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19115, 215-464-3913. JANUARY 22, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.**

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23 - Wolfgang Bors (tools, furniture, clothes)

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76ers continue to play better

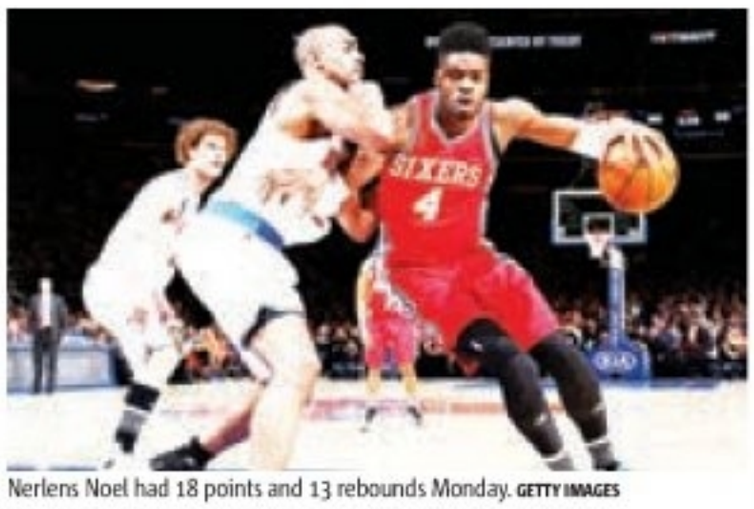
Remember the team that lost 18 straight games to start the season and 30 of their first 31?

The 76ers don't.

After taking the Bulls to the brink in overtime and demolishing the Trail Blazers by 25 points, the 76ers looked like a revitalized and mature basketball team Monday afternoon. But after taking the Knicks to the brink in second overtime, the squad ran out of gas and faltering, 119-113.

With the setback, Philly is 4-7 in its last 11 games, but this includes hard-fought losses with good showings at home against the Cavaliers, Raptors and Hawks.

Philly found itself behind by six with less than a minute to go in the second extra frame and was unable to locate its offense, as the Knicks were able to hit the necessary foul shots to ice the team's 21st victory.


Nerlens Noel had 18 points and 13 rebounds Monday. GETTY IMAGES

Toward the end of regulation trailing by two, Hollis Thompson missed three free throws with 1:23 left, shots that could have given the Sixers a lead or tied the game.

A block by Noel, his third, on the other end gave Thompson a chance at redemption as he hit a 3-pointer on the ensuing possession to put Philly ahead after the squad trailed by as many as 18 points earlier in the game.

After another stop on D, Ish Smith (16 points and a career-high 16 assists) hit a jumper to put the 76ers up by three points with 13.6 seconds remaining but Carmelo Anthony (19 points) drilled a contested three to tie the game at 96-all.

Down by three in the first overtime, Robert Covington banked in a three to tie it at 107-all giving the Knicks one last chance with just over seven seconds left, but after a Carmelo Anthony jump shot hit iron the teams prepared for five more minutes.

EVAN MACY

Ryan Howard has been one of the most important Phillies of all time, and eventually fans will realize that fact. GETTY IMAGES

Howard deserves proper sendoff for Phillies 'swan song'

One-time MVP Ryan Howard is expected to play one more full season in red pinstripes.

ED CONDRAN
@MetroPhilly
sports@metro.us

Most of the pre-season Phillies chatter is centered around the club's long-awaited makeover. The Phillies have finally received a much needed infusion of youth courtesy of a number of trades. A considerable amount of focus will be on the possible stars of tomorrow, Nick Williams, Zach Eflin and Jake Thompson, who will hone their skills in Triple-A.

The Phillies shed all of their aging stars from the most glorious run in their long history. But Ryan Howard and Carlos Ruiz will be back for one final season. Howard, who will make $25 million for the 2016 season and receive a $10 million buyout for 2017, will be the elephant in the room when spring training commences. Like Ruiz, Howard is untradeable.

"It's obvious what has happened to Ryan Howard," an NL scout said. "He never really recovered from that injury [Achilles' in 2011] and he has just gotten older. He's obviously not anywhere near as productive as he once was. But when he was productive, he was very productive. The Phillies might not have won that World Series without him. He was that good. Just look at the numbers."

From 2006 to 2009, no hitter was more productive than Ryan Howard. The Big Piece's numbers trumped Albert Pujols, Alex Rodriguez and David Ortiz during that historic four-year run, which yielded three division titles, two pennants and a World Series title for the Phillies.

There were some pundits who believed that Howard's home run total was padded by the bandbox in South Philadelphia but after the hulking slugger mashed a shot into the third deck in right field off the Yankees Mike Mussina, the opposing manager Joe Torre just laughed when asked about the missile.

8TH

RYAN HOWARD'S 357 HOME RUNS ARE THE EIGHTH MOST BY ANY ACTIVE PLAYER. HIS 1,135 RBIs ARE THE NINTH MOST.

"That ball would have gone out of any park, including Yellowstone," Torre cracked. But the iconic manager expounded further on Howard. "His home run totals aren't due to this ballpark," Torre said. "Most of the homers I've seen him hit are way out of the park. Can you imagine what his numbers are going to be like when he retires?"

When Howard finally hangs up his spikes after he most likely starts a second career as a DH, his stats will be very impressive. Only 86 players in the history of the game have hit more than his 357 homers. The odds are that Howard will finish in the top 100 in RBIs. Sure, Howard's body betrayed him, he was less than average defensively and he never adjusted to the shift. But he was an offensive force, who was the hitter pitchers loathed to face.

Perhaps Phillies fans will tip their cap to Howard during his swan song of a season.

"The fans should pay tribute to him," a NL scout said. "The smart fans will do that. He's not who he once was but when he was in his prime, he was one of those rare guys, who had no problem being THE guy, That's a difficult commodity to find in baseball. They'll be very lucky to find someone like him during their rebuild."

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Phils prospects want another title in Philly

There has not been a talented group of young Phillies since the 2008 World Series core came through the minors.

EVAN MACY
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Alec Asher and the Phillies young crop of pitching will be the biggest story of the 2016 season. GETTY IMAGES

Chase Utley, Jimmy Rollins, Ryan Howard, Carlos Ruiz and Cole Hamels are heroes in Philadelphia.

The Phillies' now departed core grew up together, led the team to five straight NL East titles and to the 2008 World Series title. And then, one by one, they aged and were shipped off to begin the rebuilding process.

Could Mark Appel, Jake Thompson, Nick Williams, Maikel Franco and a bevy of others eventually create the next legendary Phillies core?

"It's cliché," Jake Thompson, a 21-year-old pitcher and one of the Phils' best prospects, said. "Everyone is saying it but it is exciting to see what it turns into. There is so much talent in such a close age range."

The Phillies boast one of the most improved farm systems in baseball after the recent jettisons of Hamels, Ken Giles, Utley and Jonathan Papelbon have given the organization an impressive haul. It's a group that pitching prospect Alec Asher is really proud to be a part of.

"It's very exciting," Asher, who got called to the big-league club last summer, said. "A lot of these guys in here I have played with or against. And you know what you're dealing with. It's a bunch of young guys, it's exciting to take this adventure together and see where we can go with it."

Whether the situation in the minors echoes that of the mid-2000s, when Utley, Howard, Rollins and the rest were paying their dues is yet to be seen. But the optimism and anticipation is certainly similar.

"I think it's an ideal situation," Thompson said. "We've all played together, we all like each other. We have the chemistry. We have to get [to the big league] first. But once we get there and see what pans out and what doesn't pan out, if you have that core group of guys, that's what the 2008 Phillies did. … What they had for that stretch, it was a core that led the team, they were well respected and talented and they succeeded."

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"A putative father will not have standing as a party to this case without a voluntary acknowledgement of parentage or an adjudication of paternity.

A petition has been presented to said court by Adoption Resource Associates, Northampton, MA representing that the parent(s) of the child lack(s) current ability, capacity, fitness and readiness to assume parental responsibility for the child; that the petitioner's plan for the child will serve the child's best interests; and, Requesting that this Honorable Court enter a decree under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 210, Section 3, that shall have the effect of terminating the rights of the person(s) named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the custody, guardianship, adoption or other disposition of the child named herein.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Northampton

ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00AM) ON: 02/24/2016

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ATTORNEY IF YOU ARE AN INDIGENT PERSON. An indigent person is defined by SJC RULE 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving AFDC, EAEDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, food stamps, refugee resettlement benefits, medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager/Adoptions Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed above to obtain the necessary forms.

WITNESS, Hon. Linda S Fidnick, First Justice of this Court.

Michael J Carey
Register of Probate

Date: November 24, 2015

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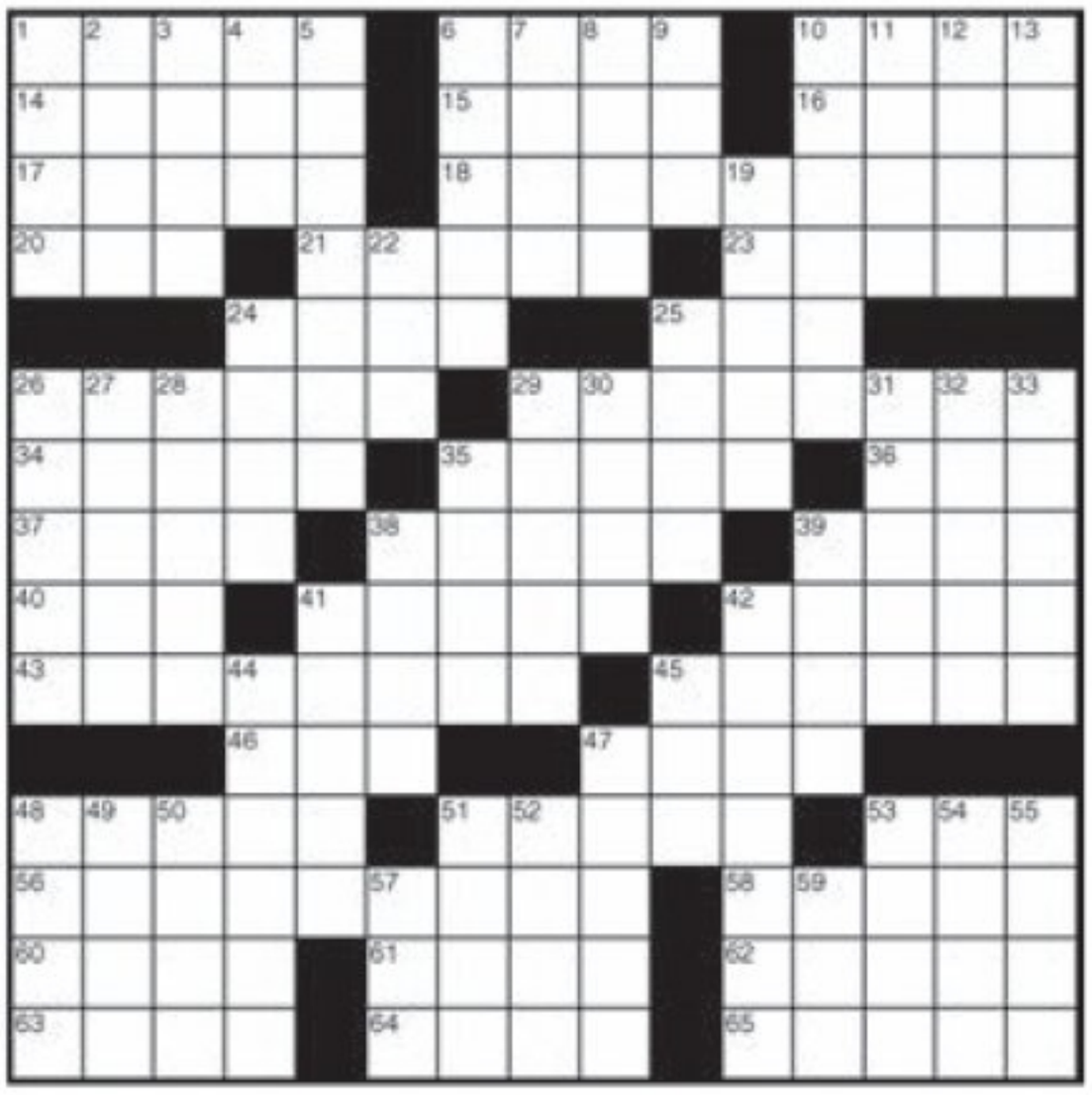

Across

1 Hump possessor
6 Tempo
10 Volume
14 Coffee emanation
15 Borodin prince
16 Ms. McClurg
17 Job openings
18 Granite mining
20 Sister of Helios
21 Hunker down
23 Warns a jaywalker
24 Observe
25 Many millennia
26 Polite address
29 Loots
34 Shaman's quest
35 Limerick starter
36 Peace gesture
37 Vanished
38 Corn-chip name
39 Queen's quarters
40 Here, to Henri
41 Claws badly
42 Glutted
43 Emulates Mozart
45 Chronicles
46 Mich. neighbor
47 Parroted
48 Granny Smith
51 Dainty ornament
53 — kwon do
56 It has tentacles
58 Engine noise
60 Nautical position
61 — fixe
62 Hair-raising
63 Leaf through
64 Watched
65 Exploits

Down

1 Inspect the joint
2 Singer — Guthrie
3 Pasture plaints
4 911 responder
5 Rodeo gear
6 Annoyance
7 Water, in Baja
8 Anagram for taco
9 Blow it
10 Over and above
11 Norse Zeus
12 Word from Babe
13 Beer barrels
19 Geneva's river
22 Oil amts.
24 "— drummers drumming . . ."
25 Greek currency
26 Vulcan virtue
27 It merged with BP
28 Tough fabric
29 Donahue and Collins
30 Allows
31 Title role for Madonna
32 Party hearty
33 Nursery buy
35 Proven
38 In a jiffy
39 Round of applause
41 Greenbacks
42 Crept
44 Did some surveying
45 Aries mo.
47 Sighed with delight
48 Nearly shut
49 Volcano goddess
50 Entreaty
51 In order
52 Shrink's reply (2 wds.)
53 Came apart
54 It turns litmus red
55 Really skimps
57 Old curse word
59 Once named

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metro.us/sudoku

easy

3								
	6				4			7
4	9	1		6				5
1	5	3	2				6	8
				8				
8	4				7	2	9	1
7				1		3	8	6
6			9				1	
								2

hard

	4		5	3		7		
	7					5		
1				8				4
		7		2	3		6	
8		6				2		3
	2		9	7		1		
9				6				7
		1					2	
		3		9	7		1	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries You may be able to make a few good moves today, but someone or something will continuously try to stand in your way. Persevere if you want to make progress.

Taurus A promotion or professional change looks promising. Partnerships, collaborations and idea-sharing sessions will lead to a major achievement and add to your credentials.

Gemini Preparing for the changes you want to bring about this year will help you figure out what is doable and what is impossible. Focus on home and personal improvements.

Cancer Question anything or anyone who doesn't coincide with your mind-set. It's important to be on the same page as those you are working with if you want to achieve success.

Leo Bring about change instead of waiting for someone else to make the first move. You cannot please everyone, but you can make a difference if you stand up for your beliefs.

Virgo You are best off doing the work and relishing the rewards. Trying to work in conjunction with others will slow you down and lead to an emotional meltdown.

Libra If you can't make up your mind, you should try observing things for a while. Once you see what everyone else is doing, you will find it easier to do what's best for you.

Scorpio Keep an open mind and heart. It's important to show patience and compassion, and to offer unique solutions if you want to run the show. Offer hands-on help.

Sagittarius Don't let the actions of others limit you. Following the crowd will not help you resolve personal issues. Soul-searching, compromise and self-control will make the difference.

Capricorn Be prepared to accept change, and work with whatever situation you face. It's your adaptability that will help you come out on top and make everyone stop and notice.

Aquarius A curious, innovative approach to what you do and say will attract attention. Set the standard and decorate your personal stage to accentuate your talent and skills.

Pisces If you keep tabs on what transpires around you, you'll find it much easier to make a worthwhile contribution. Refuse to let someone dominate you or lead you astray. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

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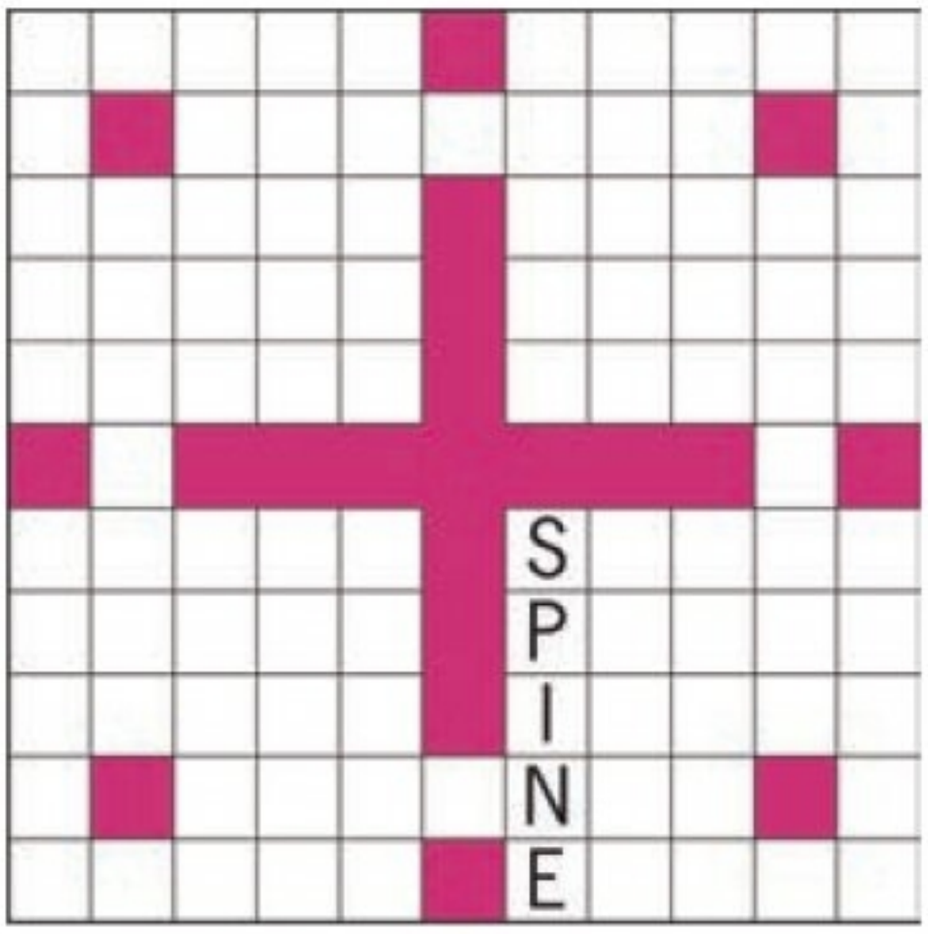
fill-ins

Place all the words listed into the grid. Each word can be used once only. The first word has been filled in.



5 Letters

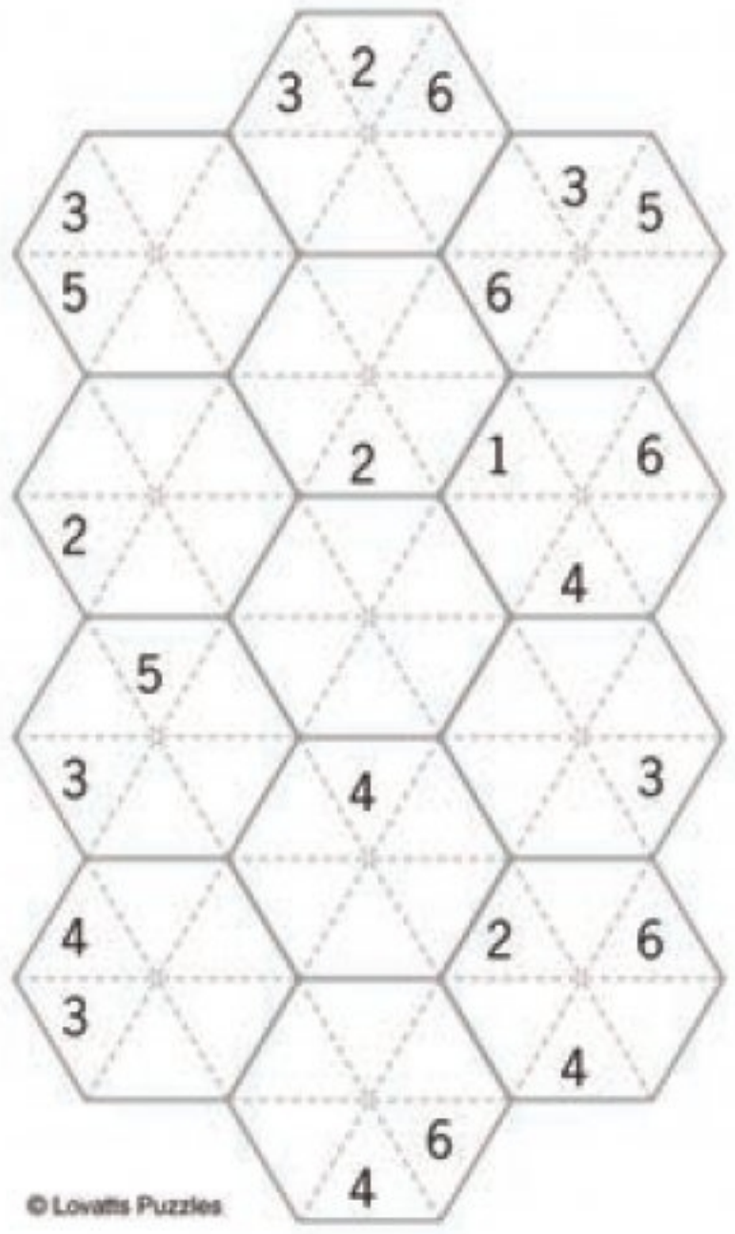
Agile
Atlas
Beret
Cacti
Catch
Clams
Cones
Duets
Essay
Grape
Haste
Impel
Inner
Input
Issue
Liars
Lisps
Merry
Pearl
Poise
Pulse
Rapid
Rinds
Rugby
Scrum
Sides
Spied
Spine
Steps
Tarot
Tears
Yells

7 Letters

Emulate
Espouse
Mourned
Reeling

hexoku

Fit the numbers 1 to 6 into each hexagon so that where the hexagons touch, the numbers are the same. No number is repeated in any hexagon.



President Obama delivers his final State of the Union

In a sweeping rhetorical indictment of anti-science philosophy, like climate change denial, President Barack Obama avoided a litany of policy proposals in favor of big ideas at his final State of the Union speech.

Alabama chief justice: No gay marriage in my state

Judges who follow his order risk being held in contempt of court for violating the federal ruling.

Texas 'affluenza' teen taken into custody in Mexico

Ethan Couch became known as the "affluenza" teen during his trial in juvenile court, when a psychologist said he was so wealthy and spoiled he could not tell the difference between right and wrong.

Militiamen occupy wildlife refuge as dispute flares

The armed occupation is part of a decades-old conflict between ranchers and the federal government.

North Korea claims first successful H-bomb test

The news set off alarm bells in Japan and South Korea.

'Trumponomics' could cause a recession: Economists

A new report from Politico has experts explaining the Donald's fiscal plan.

Legendary rock musician David Bowie dies at age 69

A light has gone out in the world.

Wrong contestant crowned Miss Universe by host

Yes, this is real. Yes, it is so very hard to watch.

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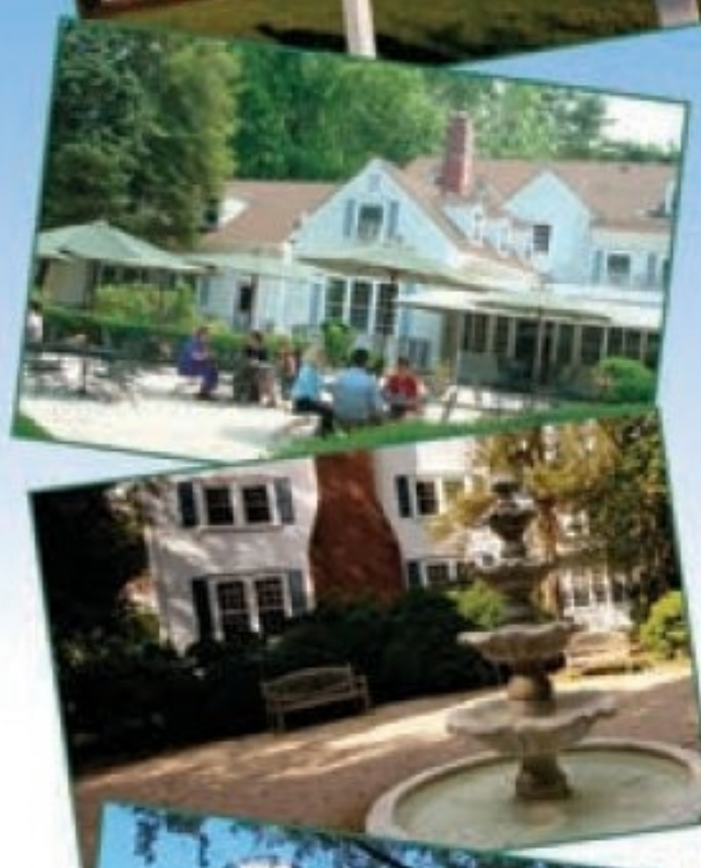

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